

inches thick. It is 1,200 pages long. Don't you want to examine me, read it, ask some questions, order some tests? And your doctor says, No, I don't have time for this because I am working on a deadline.

We all need to agree and work together. Our health care system does need reform and we want to reform it. Let's work together to fix it, not just come up with an arbitrary deadline.

We have to allow you to buy insurance from anywhere in America, have basic plans that cover what families really need and worry about, have transparency about quality and cost, and provide some financial assistance to those that need it. And, finally, let's make insurance personal, portable and permanent.

#### PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, throughout the year there has been a drumbeat, a relentless drumbeat of expensive stimulus packages, takeover of the car companies, financial bailouts, and cap-and-trade. And the drumbeat continues today, more government control, more government spending, higher taxes, fewer choices, especially for small business.

Now the Democratic leadership wants to take over one-sixth of our GDP, our health care. They want government to take over health care. It is a recipe for economic disaster. Even worse, it is a disaster for patients, because a government-run system will always ration care, reduce quality, and raise costs. It will put a Federal bureaucrat between you and your doctor.

Let's put patients, not the government, first. As long as we continue this government-knows-best approach, we are not going to get health care reform or the kind of economic recovery the American people need. We will only get bigger government, rationing, and diminished quality of care.

Stop the drumbeat of more government. Stop the takeover of government health care.

#### A BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NEEDED

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of the aisle are in favor of health care delivery reform. We want universal access. We want universal coverage. But what the Democratic majority has given us in their rush to get something through this body by the end of the week is 1,100 pages of universal nightmare, and this is not what the American people want.

They don't want these long lines, these long queues, this rationing of

care. They don't want nonelected government bureaucrats telling health care providers what they can give and what they can offer and what they can prescribe to take care of their patients.

Mr. Speaker, we can come together in a bipartisan way and rewrite this H.R. 3200 and do it for the American people, bring down the cost of health care, and promote universal access. That is what we need to do. We need to do it in a bipartisan way, and I recommend to the Democratic leadership, let's go back to the drawing table.

#### GIVE AMERICANS A HEALTH CARE PLAN THAT WON'T MAKE THEM SICK

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the latest numbers we have are for 2007. You divide the total number of households in America into the total amount of money spent on Medicare and Medicaid, it is \$9,200 for every household in America.

We are not getting our money's worth with this government-run health care. And now the President wants to spend another \$1 trillion? Well, there is a Republican plan that we can't get from legislative counsel to bring to the floor or even have CBO score it that would say, you know what? For the first time ever, we are going to give senior citizens complete control of their health care. We are going to give them cash money in a health savings account they control with a debit card, not the government, not an insurance company, and then we will buy them the best private insurance you can have for everything above that.

That gives them complete coverage; no wrap-arounds they have to buy, no surplus insurance. That is a plan that won't make America sick.

#### STOP THE GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with dozens of doctors in east Texas to discuss health care, and, with only one exception, every one of them said that they had recommended to their children that they not follow in their footsteps and practice medicine. Health care is losing our best and our brightest due to its threatened takeover by the Federal Government.

Republicans have commonsense solutions to our health care challenges to ensure that all Americans have access to the high quality health care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

When it comes to health care decisions, no government bureaucrat should ever come between you and your doctor, and if you are happy with

your current plan, Republicans want you to be able to keep it.

In contrast, Speaker PELOSI has proposed a government-run health care rationing system paid for by higher taxes on small businesses and borrowing yet more money from the Chinese, while sending the \$1 trillion bill to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, if you loved the government takeover of our banks, of our auto companies, of our mortgage companies and AIG, you will love the takeover of your family's health care.

#### INITIATE REAL DEBATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, right now we are debating one of the most important issues facing our country today, health care reform. There is no doubt that our current system must be reformed.

Unfortunately, rather than conducting a meaningful debate on how to improve access and quality and lower the cost of health care, the majority is making deals behind closed doors and going through the yellow pages to figure out who they can tax in order to pay for the \$1 trillion bill they propose.

The majority asserts that their bill will insure more people, but the cost to America will not only be in dollars and cents; the bill will dramatically alter our health care, which is 20 percent of our economy, through the creation of a government-run public option. For those with private insurance in the short time before they are forced into a public plan, a government plan will still dictate what government service they can and cannot have.

This is unacceptable. The only people in the room making health care decisions should be you and your doctor, not a Washington bureaucrat.

I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided and dangerous proposal and initiate a real debate on health care reform.

□ 1445

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. LOBIONDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, we are rapidly coming up on the 6-month anniversary of the stimulus bill. The question all across America, the question in New Jersey, and the question in my district in south Jersey is, Where are the jobs? We had jobs that were promised, good jobs that were promised, jobs that were going to be available. The unemployment rate was going to come down. The families in New Jersey are hurting. The families in south Jersey are hurting. Our unemployment rate in the State of New Jersey is 9.2 percent; and in most of my counties, it's well above 11 percent.